

Remarks

I. Status of the Application

Claims 13-17, 92-96 and 154-160 are pending in the application. Claims 13 and 92 are amended. Claims 1-12, 19-91, and 97-153 are cancelled. Claims 154-160 are added.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being allegedly based on a disclosure that is not enabling. In addition, claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 18 was rejected in the previous Office Action dated August 11, 2005 for the same reasons. In response (in the Amendment dated November 10, 2005), the applicants pointed out that there is in fact support for claim 18 in the original application - both in the specification and by virtue of the fact that claim 18 is an original claim. In addition, Fig. 13 has been amended to include a battery.

The present Office Action fails to either acknowledge or deny the support for claim 18 that is found in the original application and which was discussed in the prior Amendment. The applicants respectfully request that the Examiner either acknowledge such support or explain why such support is lacking.

As the applicants argued in the November 10, 2005 Amendment:

Claim 18, as originally filed, depends from claim 13 and further recites “a battery power source, wherein an update of the first information source is halted while the system is drawing power from the battery power source.” Support for this limitation is located at page

28, lines 8-10 of the specification, which states “engine 815 may be programmed to suspend any automated synchronization while computer 803 is running on battery power.” On page 25, lines 21-24, computer 803 is described in one example as a “personal computer (PC).” Taken together, the original claim 18 and the language in the specification are clear and provide ample support for a “personal computer” with a battery power source to run on battery power.

As mentioned above, Fig. 13 has also been amended to include a battery. A copy of the annotated marked-up drawing sheet included with the Amendment filed on November 10, 2005, showing the changes to Fig. 13 highlighted in yellow, is included herewith. A Replacement Sheet of drawings is included, as well. The amendments to Fig. 13 do not add new matter, since this embodiment is supported by original claim 18 and the language on page 28, lines 8-10 of the specification.

Pages 25 and 28 in the specification have been amended to conform with the revised Fig. 13. Again, no new matter has been added to the specification, for the same reason discussed above.

III. Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 13-15, 17, 92-94 and 96 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,652,789 (Miner). Claims 13 and 92 have been amended and the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent system claim 13 defines a system for managing at least first and second information sources, and has been amended to require “a first device comprising a processor, and a first memory configured to store a first information source” and “a second device

located remotely from the first device, the second device comprising a second memory configured to store a second information source.” Claim 13 has been further amended to require “an interface configured to establish a communication connection between the first device and the second device.” Claim 13 has also been amended to recite “wherein the processor is further configured to select at least one direction of a flow of information between the first information source and the second information source, and update, via the communication connection, at least one of the first information source and the second information source with information in the other information source in accordance with the at least one direction.”

Claim 13 has also been amended to replace the language “a device for” by “a device configured to,” the language “an interface for” by “an interface configured to,” and the language “a processor for” by “a processor configured to,” to avoid any inference that the limitations should be interpreted as means-plus-function limitations. These amendments broaden the scope of the claim.

Independent claim 92 is a method claim that corresponds to amended claim 13, and has been amended in a similar manner.

Miner discloses a communications system for receiving and managing incoming calls to a subscriber. Each subscriber is assigned an electronic assistant, which can facilitate the creation and maintenance of contact lists. (Col. 38, lines 52-65). A subscriber’s contacts list is stored in an “object database” in association with the subscriber’s assistant. (Col. 19, lines 53-57). The object database also contains one or more “phone book objects 250,” which contain a list of other subscribers on the system and consists of a set of pointers to user objects. When a user changes the portion of a contact that is stored in a user object, such as

the work or home phone number, all phone books and contacts referencing that user object show the new information. (Col. 20, lines 20-31).

In accordance with Miner, the subscriber's contacts list, and the phone book objects, are all stored in a single "object database" on a single computer. Specifically, Miner describes the object database as one of four "primary components" of the system. (Col. 10, lines 51-61). Fig. 3 shows an "object database 68" as a component of the high-level architecture of the system." Fig. 2 shows the "basic hardware components" of the system, which comprise a single high-performance 486 computer. (Col. 9, lines 23-26). Although not explicitly discussed, the "object database 68" presumably is stored in the memory of the computer shown in Fig. 2.

Nowhere does Miner teach or suggest a "a first device comprising a processor, and a first memory configured to store a first information source" and "a second device located remotely from the first device, the second device comprising a second memory configured to store a second information source," as required by amended claims 13 and 92. The "user object," the "phone book," and the "contacts" in Miner are not devices and are not located remotely. They are all stored in the same database -"object database 68," in a single computer.

Miner also fails to teach or suggest "an interface configured to establish a communication connection between the first device and the second device," as required by amended claims 13 and 92. Since there is no "second device" in Miner, as discussed above, there can be no interface configured to establish a communication connection between a "first device" and a "second device," as claimed.

Similarly, Miner does not teach or suggest a processor configured to “update, via the communication connection, at least one of the first information source and the second information source with information in the other information source in accordance with the at least one direction.” Since Miner does not show “first” and “second” devices, there can be no “communication connection” between such “first” and “second” devices, nor can there be updating of an information source in one of the devices with information from the other via the “communication connection,” as claimed.

Amended claim 13 and its dependent claims (14-17), and amended claim 92 and its dependent claims (93-96), are therefore, patentable over the cited art.

IV. Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 16 and 95 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Miner in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,065,016 (Stuntebeck). Claims 16 and 95 depend from claims 13 and 92, respectively. For the reasons set forth above, claims 13 and 92 are patentable over the cited art. Therefore, claims 16 and 95 are also patentable over the cited art.

V. New Claims 154-155

New claim 154 defines a system for managing at least first and second information sources, and requires “a first device comprising a processor and a first memory configured to store a first information source.” Claim 154 further requires “an interface configured to establish a communication connection between the first device and a second device located remotely from the first device.” Claim 154 also recites “wherein the processor is further

configured to select at least one direction of flow of information between the first information source and a second information source stored in a second memory in the second device, and update, via the communication connection, at least one of the first information source and the second information source with information in the other information source in accordance with the at least one direction.”

For reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 13, new claim 154 is patentable over the cited art. For example, none of the cited art teaches or suggests “an interface configured to establish a communication connection between the first device and a second device located remotely from the first device” or a processor configured to “select at least one direction of flow of information between the first information source and a second information source stored in a second memory in the second device,” as required by claim 154.

New claim 155 depends from claim 154 and recites “wherein the first device comprises a personal computer (PC).” Support for claim 155 is found at page 25, lines 19-25, for example. New claim 156 depends from claim 154 and recites “wherein the first device comprises a personal information management (PIM) software application.” Support for claim 156 is found at page 26, lines 9-27, for example. New claim 157 depends from claim 154 and recites “wherein the second device is associated with an information assistance service.” Support for claim 157 is found at page 25, lines 19-27, for example. New claims 155-157 are patentable over the cited art by virtue of their dependency on new claim 154.

New claim 158 defines a system for managing at least first and second information sources, and requires “a first device comprising a first memory configured to store a first information source,” and “an interface configured to establish a communication connection

between the first device and a second device located remotely from the first device.” Claim 158 further requires “a processor configured to receive, from the second device, an indication of a selection of at least one direction of flow of information between the first information source and a second information source stored in a second memory in the second device.” Claim 158 requires the “processor” to be further configured to “provide to the device, via the communication connection, data from the first information source for inclusion in the second information source, if the at least one direction comprises transferring information from the first information source to update the second information source,” and to “receive from the device, via the communication connection, data from the second information source for inclusion in the second information source, if the at least one direction comprises transferring information from the second information source to update the first information source.”

For reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 13, new claim 158 is patentable over the cited art. For example, none of the cited art teaches or suggests “an interface configured to establish a communication connection between the first device and a second device located remotely from the first device” or “a processor configured to receive, from the second device, an indication of a selection of at least one direction of flow of information between the first information source and a second information source stored in a second memory in the second device,” as required by claim 158.

New claim 159 depends from claim 158 and recites “wherein the first device is located in a call center associated with an information assistance service.” Support for claim 159 is found at page 25, lines 19-27, for example. New claim 160 depends from claim 158 and recites “wherein the second device comprises a personal computer (PC).” Support for claim

158 is found at page 25, lines 19-25, for example. New claims 159-160 are patentable over the cited art by virtue of their dependency on new claim 158.

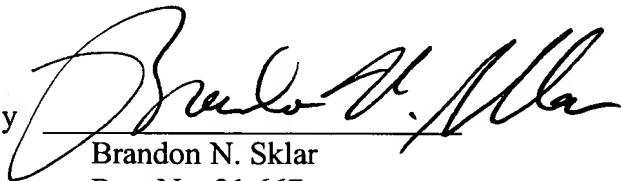
VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, each of claims 13-17, 92-96, and 154-160, as amended, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of these claims is requested and allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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ANNOTATED MARKED-UP DRAWINGS

FIG. 13

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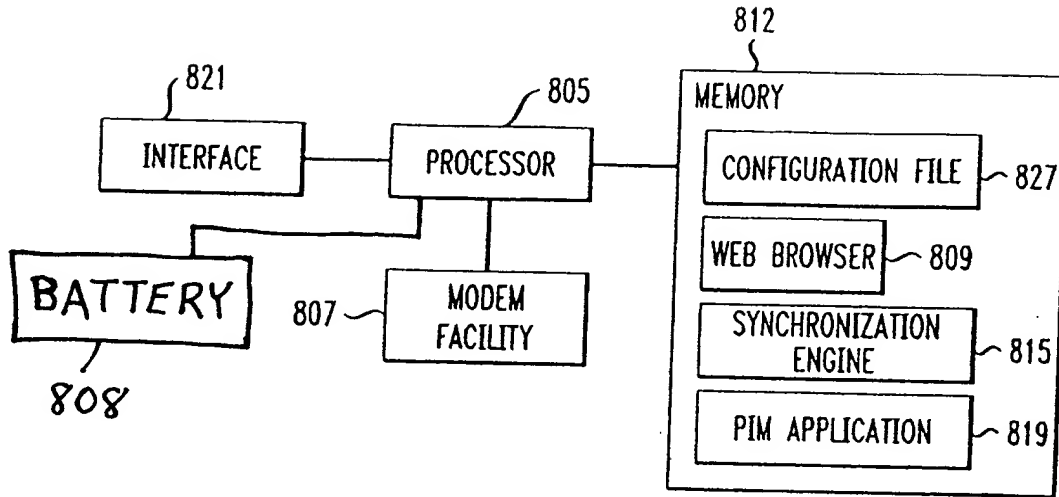


FIG. 14

